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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING



ISMAEL AHMED  
DIRECTOR

January 31, 2008

The Honorable Bill Hardiman, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS  
Michigan State Senate  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

The Honorable Dudley Spade, Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS  
Michigan House of Representatives  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Hardiman and Representative Spade:

Section 432(1) of 2006 Public Act 41 (Enrolled House Bill 4493), supplemental appropriations, requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide an annual report on the activities of the Early Childhood Investment Corporation. Our report is attached

If you have any questions, please contact John Sorbet, chief administrative officer, at 373-7787.

Sincerely,

Ismael Ahmed

c: Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS  
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies and Policy Offices  
State Budget Office

**Department of Human Services  
FY 2007 Report  
Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) Activities**

Section 432 (1): The Department of Human Services (DHS) shall provide the DHS House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on with an annual report on the activities of the ECIC. The report is due by Feb 1 of each year and shall contain at least the following information:

- a) Detail of the amounts of grants awarded.
- b) The grant recipients.
- c) The activities funded by each grant.
- d) An analysis of each grant recipient's success in addressing the development of a comprehensive system of early childhood services and supports.

(2) All contracts for comprehensive systems planning shall be bid out through a statewide request-for-proposal process, and the department shall send a report to the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on the department budget covering the selection criteria for establishing contracts on the day of the issuance of any request for proposals.

**Report to the Legislature**

The ECIC was established as a public, non-profit organization to focus on three areas that are critical to improving the ability of communities to respond to the needs of families with children from birth to five years of age. First, ECIC is responsible for supporting, sponsoring and funding partnerships (Great Start Collaboratives) with communities to promote collaborative community approaches for comprehensive plans to address the needs of families with children from birth to five years of age. Second, ECIC works with state government to optimize the manner in which public and private resources are used for early childhood services. Third, ECIC serves as a central clearinghouse for information, resources, and best practices on a variety of early childhood issues, including technical assistance for Michigan communities, parent support, child development, and support of child day care services.

**Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Expenditures**

In fiscal year 2007, the ECIC increased the number of funded Great Start Collaboratives from 14 to 21. In addition, all 21 Great Start Collaboratives are now fully funded, whereas, in 2006 only 7 were fully funded. This expansion was made possible as a result of a state fiscal year 2007 appropriation through the School Aid Budget of the Department of Education, combined with the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funds made available through the Establishment Grant between the DHS and the ECIC, and the Work Project funded through DHS.

The 21 communities were selected as part of a competitive bidding process in which 38 intermediate school districts applied. Within the 21 communities selected, 70% of Michigan's children reside. The following table shows the anticipated expenditures by the ECIC for this work. The table includes the total funding for each collaborative, the CCDF portion of funding, and the amount of funding from other sources.

<b>Local Collaboratives</b>	<b>Federal CCDF Funding</b>	<b>Funding From Other Sources (<i>Includes support from the CCDF Work Project and Michigan Dept. of Ed.</i>)</b>	<b>Total</b>
Branch	80,496.00	55,275.00	135,771.00
Charlevoix-Emmet	80,496.00	68,597.00	149,093.00
Dickinson-Iron	80,496.00	60,848.00	141,344.00
Eastern UP (Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac)	80,496.00	37,431.00	117,927.00
Eaton	80,496.00	39,504.00	120,000.00
Genesee	107,328.00	75,467.00	182,795.00
Ingham	107,328.00	55,044.00	162,372.00
Jackson	107,328.00	89,130.00	196,458.00
Kalamazoo	107,328.00	42,997.00	150,325.00
Kent	107,328.00	71,242.00	178,570.00
Mecosta-Osceola	80,496.00	39,553.00	120,049.00
Monroe	107,328.00	4,650.00	111,978.00
Muskegon	107,328.00	58,964.00	166,292.00
Newaygo	80,496.00	38,250.00	118,746.00
Oakland – Pontiac	107,328.00	16,617.00	123,945.00
Ottawa	107,328.00	51,815.00	159,143.00
Saginaw	107,328.00	73,284.00	180,612.00
Shiawassee	80,496.00	112,107.00	192,603.00
St. Clair	107,328.00	19,758.00	127,086.00
St. Joseph	80,496.00	38,699.00	119,195.00
Wayne – Downriver and Southwest Detroit	214,656.00	95,351.00	310,007.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,119,728.00</b>	<b>1,144,583.00</b>	<b>3,264,311.00</b>

## **Grant Purposes**

Each Great Start Collaborative is charged with overseeing the planning, implementation and ongoing improvement of an infrastructure designed to support a local, comprehensive early childhood system. Their mission is based upon a two-year state-wide planning process (2002-2004), involving citizens from all parts of the state that ultimately led to the Great Start initiative which aims to ensure that all Michigan children enter school safe, healthy and eager to succeed in school and life. Each collaborative commits to a set of activities designed to assess community capacity and challenges, to develop strategic plans to improve services for children birth to 5 years of age and their families, and to increase local understanding and involvement in this issue. In addition, a priority is placed on engaging parents in local efforts through the development of parent coalitions.

## **Activities to Be Supported**

The following table lays out the annual plan of work for each Great Start Collaborative over the next three years. Succeeding years will be informed by these initial activities. All 21 Great Start Collaboratives are in their planning year. The Great Start Collaboratives are completing an assessment of their existing local early childhood systems. Based on the findings from this assessment process they will be preparing a long-range strategic plan as well as a short-term action agenda based on local priorities. To support this work, ECIC provides at least monthly, on-site consultation and sponsors quarterly peer-to-peer technical assistance meetings. The ECIC also provide opportunities for Great Start Collaborative members to learn from national experts in a variety of venues.

## Great Start Collaboratives: Required Activities Years 1-3

### Background

This document is intended to be an initial attempt to quantify both the current work that Great Start Collaboratives are undertaking, as well as the work that they may potentially undertake in subsequent years. The **bold headers** are the infrastructure components of the Great System. These components were determined through a literature review that was conducted during the initial strategic planning for the Great Start system which took place during 2002-2004. The mission of each Great Start Collaboratives is to oversee the planning, implementation and ongoing improvement of the infrastructure of the local, comprehensive early childhood system.

In the Planning Year column, the required tasks of each current Great Start Collaborative, per their contract with the ECIC, are detailed under each heading. The Implementation Year 1 and 2 columns, contain future proposed tasks for each Great Start Collaborative.

<b>Planning Year</b>	<b>Implementation Year 1</b>	<b>Implementation Year 2</b>
<b>Collaborative Governance</b>	<b>Collaborative Governance</b>	<b>Collaborative Governance</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish Great Start Collaborative.</li> <li>• Determine and implement effective, collaborative governance structure.</li> <li>• Build active and engaged membership.</li> <li>• Hire and retain highly qualified GSC coordinator.</li> <li>• Demonstrate commitment to establish and maintain local comprehensive early childhood system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustain Great Start Collaborative.</li> <li>• Maintain effective collaborative governance structure.</li> <li>• Recruit, orient and support GSC members (as needed).</li> <li>• Retain highly qualified GSC coordinator.</li> <li>• Oversee and participate in implementation of Year 1 Early Childhood Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Evaluate progress on Year 1 Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Determine priorities for Year 2 Action Agenda.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustain Great Start Collaborative.</li> <li>• Maintain effective collaborative governance structure.</li> <li>• Recruit, orient and support GSC members (as needed).</li> <li>• Retain highly qualified GSC coordinator.</li> <li>• Oversee and participate in implementation of Year 2 Early Childhood Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Evaluate progress on Year 2 Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Determine Priorities for Year 3 Action Agenda.</li> </ul>

<b>Accountability, Results and Standards</b>	<b>Accountability, Results and Standards</b>	<b>Accountability, Results and Standards</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete ECIC provided Local Early Childhood System Assessment.</li> <li>• Prepare 3-5 Year Strategic Plan.</li> <li>• Prepare Year 1 Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Prepare ECIC required reports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review progress on Year 1 Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Determine priorities for Year 2 Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Submit required ECIC reports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect and compile data for Great Start results.</li> <li>• Update strategic plan.</li> <li>• Prepare Year 3 Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Submit required ECIC reports.</li> </ul>
<b>Data and Information Systems</b>	<b>Data and Information Systems</b>	<b>Data and Information Systems</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review existing data and information systems via infrastructure review portion of Local Early Childhood System Assessment.</li> <li>• Prepare recommendations for strategic plan.</li> <li>• Determine priorities for Year 1 Action Agenda.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Year 1 Action Agenda for local Great Start data and information system.</li> <li>• Review progress on Year 1 Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Determine priorities for Year 2 Action Agenda.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Year 2 Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Review progress on Year 2.</li> <li>• Determine priorities for Year 3 Action Agenda.</li> </ul>
<b>Professional Development and Technical Assistance</b>	<b>Professional Development and Technical Assistance</b>	<b>Professional Development and Technical Assistance</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review existing professional development and technical assistance via infrastructure review portion of Local Early Childhood System Assessment.</li> <li>• Prepare recommendations for strategic plan.</li> <li>• Determine priorities for Year 1 Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Participate in ECIC provided Technical Assistance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Year 1 Action Agenda recommendations for professional development and technical assistance.</li> <li>• Participate and assist w/ provision of ECIC technical assistance.</li> <li>• Review progress on Year 1 Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Determine priorities for Year 2 Action Agenda.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Year 2 Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Review progress on Year 2 Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Determine priorities for Year 3 Action Agenda.</li> </ul>

<b>Parent and Community Engagement</b>	<b>Parent and Community Engagement</b>	<b>Parent and Community Engagement</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruit and engage parent members for GSC.</li> <li>Provide financial and other supports for parent members of GSC.</li> <li>Hire and retain Parent Coordinator(s) for local Great Start Parent Coalition.</li> <li>Participate in ECIC provided technical assistance for parents.</li> <li>Form local Great Start Parent Coalition, representative of the diversity of the parents in the community.</li> <li>Support local Great Start Parent Coalition activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruit, orient, support and engage parent members for GSC.</li> <li>Provide financial and other supports for parent members of GSC.</li> <li>Retain Parent Coordinator of local Great Start Parent Coalition.</li> <li>Prepare and implement annual plan for local Great Start Parent Coalition activities.</li> <li>Support local Great Start Parent Coalition Activities.</li> <li>Participate and assist w/planning for ECIC technical assistance for parents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruit, orient, support and engage parent members for GSC.</li> <li>Provide financial and other supports for parent members of GSC.</li> <li>Retain Parent Coordinator of local Great Start Parent Coalition.</li> <li>Prepare and implement annual plan for local Great Start Parent Coalition activities.</li> <li>Support local Great Start Parent Coalition Activities.</li> <li>Participate and assist w/planning for ECIC technical assistance for parents.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Will Building and Strategic Communication</b>	<b>Public Will Building and Strategic Communication</b>	<b>Public Will Building and Strategic Communication</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement communications plan.</li> <li>Develop one or more communication venues (Web site, etc.).</li> <li>Provide annual progress report to community.</li> <li>Seek and incorporate feedback on communications strategies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement communications plan, based on feedback solicited from the community.</li> <li>Sustain one or more communications venues (Web site, etc.).</li> <li>Provide annual progress report to the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement communications plan, based on feedback solicited from the community.</li> <li>Sustain one or more communications venues (Web site, etc.).</li> <li>Provide annual progress report to the community.</li> </ul>
<b>Service System Integration</b>	<b>Service System Integration</b>	<b>Service System Integration</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop pertinent formal written agreements among GSC early childhood service providing partners re: communication, service access, service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement written agreements.</li> <li>Review implementation of written agreements, assess progress, determine needed changes and amend agreements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review implementation of written agreements, assess progress, determine needed changes and amend as necessary.</li> </ul>

<p>interface, services coordination and early childhood service delivery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop policies and procedures for the local Great Start system that facilitate service access, interface, coordination, and inclusion of children with disabilities into all early childhood settings.</li> </ul>	<p>as necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement policies and procedures for local Great Start System.</li> <li>• Complete a review of policy and procedure implementation, assess progress, determine needed changes and amend as necessary.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review implementation of policies and procedures for local Great Start System, assess progress, determine needed changes and amend as necessary.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Not Applicable</i></b>	<b><i>Expansion of Early Childhood Services</i></b>	<b><i>Expansion of Early Childhood Services</i></b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Action Agenda for Year 1, as it pertains to expansion of early childhood services for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A specific neighborhood or small geographic area(s).</li> <li>2. Individual community(ies) within the ISD service area.</li> <li>3. The entire ISD service area.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Action Agenda for Year 1, as it pertains to expansion of early childhood services for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A specific neighborhood or small geographic area(s).</li> <li>2. Individual community(ies) within the ISD service area.</li> <li>3. The entire ISD service area.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>Financing and Fund Development</b>	<b>Financing and Fund Development</b>	<b>Financing and Fund Development</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review current financing and fund development strategies as required in infrastructure review.</li> <li>• Prepare recommendations for strategic plan.</li> <li>• Determine priorities for Year 1 Action Agenda.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Year 1 Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Review progress on Year 1 Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Determine priorities for Year 2 Action Agenda.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Year 2 Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Review progress of Year 2 Action Agenda.</li> <li>• Determine priorities for Year 3 Action Agenda.</li> </ul>



## **Success in Addressing the Development of a Comprehensive System of Early Childhood Services and Supports**

Each of the collaboratives has made significant progress in their efforts to establish a comprehensive system of early childhood services and supports in their respective communities. To date, eight of the 21 Great Start Collaboratives have completed the planning phase of their efforts and, with the beginning of fiscal year 2008, have moved into implementation efforts. These collaboratives now have both strategic plans and action agendas in place and are beginning to address the priorities that emerged from the planning process. Examples of efforts to improve local systems include strategies to increase the number of children who have access to a medical home; efforts to improve child and family assessments with better coordination to services appropriate to family needs; reviews of local early childhood financing to improve coordination of funding streams; increased parent and consumer involvement in planning and decision making; and the development of agreements among agencies and other service providers to improve access to needed services and supports.

By February 1, 2008, all but one of the Great Start Collaboratives will have completed their planning efforts and will have moved into implementation efforts. As all of the currently funded Great Start Collaboratives begin implementing their action plans, ECIC will continue to monitor their support and technical assistance needs and work to assure timely and appropriate response.